

WEEKLY- 41,789

FEB 24 1967

Catholics Deny Link with C.I.A.

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WASHINGTON—NC—Leaders in Catholic youth and student groups professed no knowledge of links between their organizations and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The National Newman Club Federation and the International and North American Secretariats of Pax Romana, international organization of Catholic students and intellectuals, were listed among those alleged to have received C.I.A. funds from agency-connected sources.

The widening controversy over the connection of private organizations and foundations with the intelligence agency was stirred by the admission of the National Student Association (N.S.A.) that it had received funds since 1950.

Fr. Raymond Kelly, M.M., executive secretary of the Pax Romana North American Secretariat, said that to his knowledge the secretariat had never received funds from the C.I.A.

FATHER KELLY said the organization has accepted grants and contributions from various foundations, but at no time were there any conditions attached.

Fr. Thomas Carlin, O.S.F.S., assistant director of the youth department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference (now U.S. Catholic Conference) from 1952 to 1960, declared that at no time during his tenure was he aware of any connection between the National Newman Student Federation or the National Federation of Catholic College Students and the C.I.A.

Father Carlin, now at Allentown College of St. Francis de Sales, said he was directly concerned with the handling of funds received in the form of grants or contributions. He said that at no time were there ever "strings" attached.

A Catholic lay leader formerly close to Catholic student and youth organizations, who wished to remain anonymous, said funds received from such quarters as the N.S.A. or the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs could have been drawn from many sources.

HE STRESSED that such organizations derive income from several directions, including private donations, either contributed voluntarily or through solicitation. He said it would be impossible to pinpoint the specific origins of money contributed to individual groups by the foundations.

Meanwhile, the National Council of Churches (N.C.C.) disclosed that it had received "minor" financial assistance from foundations allegedly linked with the C.I.A.

Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, the council's general secretary, said that the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs contributed between \$200 and \$300 in 1965 toward expenses of a conference of the N.C.C.-related National Student Christian Federation.